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STUDIES IN AMERICAN ELEMENTARY LAW. (Second Edition.) John C. Townes, University of Texas. T. H. Flood & Co., Chicago, 1911.

The author believes in the existence of an elementary law underlying and forming the basis of American law, consisting of fundamental principles, substantive truths, based upon principles of right and wrong, which are universal, eternal, immutable and inexorable. Because of the author's extensive study, his experience as a successful teacher and his evident knowledge of the law, his opinions and theories command respect, even though one may believe right and wrong to be merely relative terms, varying with the conceptions and conditions of each decade, of each locality and of each people.

The treatise, in its opening chapters, treats of jurisprudence rather than law, and, in the next succeeding few chapters, of political government. The terminology employed in these chapters is, at times, unusual and the views therein expressed will be approved or disapproved, according to the theories of the reader. The presentation by the author is, however, refreshing because of its originality and worth while because it is concise and comprehensive. Thereafter law proper, in nearly all its branches, including both substantive and adjective law, is discussed, in a narrative rather than a technical style, in such fashion as to be of great benefit to one first entering upon the study of law. Because of the scope of the subject matter treated, inaccurate impressions of the law may be obtained in a few minor matters.

As a book suitable for collateral reading, it may well be recommended to every student of the law, irrespective of the extent of his legal knowledge. Whether or not it would prove a successful text book would depend upon the qualities and capabilities of teacher and student. Because of the very concise and comprehensive presentation of all law, it is feared the average student would garner little permanent knowledge unless the teacher correlated and illustrated the subject matter. For those desiring merely the law as illustrated by the "case in point" the book has no value, but for those of the profession who enjoy legal literature and thought the book may have considerable value in producing new ideas.

J. B. L.